

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 09649 190821Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----034220 190823Z /15

O 190815Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6626
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 09649

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG, FR, BE
SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK - BELGIAN VIEWS ON FRENCH
UNILATERAL PARACHUTE OPERATION

REF: DE TARR-WALKER TELECONS

1. SUBSEQUENT TO EARLY MORNING CALLS TO US FROM MFA
DIRECTOR GENERAL SCHOUMAKER REGARDING STRONG BELGIAN
RESERVATIONS ABOUT WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS BILATERAL
FRENCH-ZAIRIAN ACTION, FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET'S
DEPUTY CHEF DE CABINET TELEPHONED US AT 0830L
TO TELL US THAT BELGIAN CABINET HAS MET AND REACHED
FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

A. IF FRENCH AND MOBUTU HAVE DECIDED TO LAUNCH
ATTACK THIS MORNING, THIS IS THEIR DECISION. FRENCH
INTERVENTION IS A FRENCH DECISION AND A MATTER OF
NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

B. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED NOT TO ASK
FRENCH TO WAIT AND HAS RENOUNCED IDEA OF MAKING DEMARCHE
TO FRENCH IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THEIR DECISION.

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BELGIANS HAVE NO OBJECTIONS IF FRENCH DECIDE TO GO IN.

C. BELGIAN TROOPS WILL CONTINUE TO PROCEED TO
KAMINA.

D. BELGIANS WILL STUDY SITUATION TONIGHT "IN COOPERA-
TION WITH" USG.

2. ONKELINX SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET HAD JUST SPOKEN ON TELEPHONE WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD AND HAD TOLD HIM THAT DECISION WAS A FRENCH POLITICAL ONE AND THAT BELGIANS HAVE NO OBJECTION IF FRENCH GO IN.

3. ONKELINX ADDED THAT BELGIAN TROOPS ARE NOT READY FOR OPERATION, SAID THAT THEY WILL NOT BE READY UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING, AND SAID THAT IT IS NOW UP TO FRENCH. CHAMBERS

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